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HUMANS OF PARKLAND Kelly Bails



Photo by Emma Gray | Prospectus News

Emma Gray
Editor

Kelly Bails, originally from Canada, is a professor of mathematics at Parkland, as well as a track and personal running coach and an avid long-distance runner herself.

Bails came to Illinois 15 years ago when she got her job at Parkland, after having gone as far from her home in Canada as she could.

"I actually grew up in Canada," she said. "Moving was one of those 'get as far away from my home town as possible' situations. So I actually went to school

SEE HUMANS PAGE 2

Study abroad an option for learning opportunities

EvyJo Compton
Staff Writer

Parkland's study abroad program presents to students the opportunity to expand their educational experience by visiting foreign lands and immersing themselves in their fields of study and new cultures.

For many years, students have been going to other countries to learn about different cultures and societies. Parkland's study

abroad program offers ten countries for students to go to.

"I have been the study abroad program coordinator since 2012," Jody Littleton said. "But, my experience with the program actually started before that. I started helping...the previous director a couple of years before that because I have always loved to travel. I love study abroad. I love the idea with students being able to get out and really experience another

culture."

Littleton plays many roles when it comes to the program at Parkland. She works with students and college faculty and staff.

"The two parts to my job are the student part and the faculty part," Littleton said. "The student part is the larger part."

Parkland works with other colleges to allow students to go to so many other countries. By working with other colleges each college is

able to focus on their program and coordinating with their study abroad country.

"We have a lot of study abroad programs that we share with other colleges, and this is through a consortium that we have which is the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs," Littleton said. "Parkland College is specifically in charge of the France study abroad, but per se, if you wanted to go to China it would be run

through Parkland, but would actually be coordinated by the College of Lake County. Costa Rica is run by the College of DuPage."

There are a plethora of destinations available for students interested in studying abroad.

"So, we have a lot of different study abroad programs," Littleton said. "We go to Austria; we go to China; we go to France, Ireland, England, Costa Rica, India;

SEE ABROAD PAGE 2

Parkland students share thoughts on study groups

Alex Davidson
Staff Writer

Many students at Parkland said that they have never been a part of a study group. The most often cited reason was that they simply don't have friends in their classes and haven't had the chance, but a few people have said that they would choose not to join one even if they had the chance to.

"I wouldn't [join a study group]," said Cameron Heiser, a student at Parkland. "I study better by myself."

Study groups are a method some people



Photo by Alex Davidson | Prospectus News
Olivia Brady, a student at Parkland College, studies for class.

use to learn material by studying with other students from their classes.

According to Travis Sola, a professor of psychology at Parkland,

the people involved in the group usually determine whether or not it is useful.

"If they don't know the material," Sola said,

"it won't help them very much. I think the best way for [it to work] is for them to prompt each other."

Whether or not it

works also depends on if the people in the group are able to work as a collective. One of the things that students interviewed said would be useful is to use the study group to help think of things that they wouldn't think of studying on their own.

"I haven't found a study group to join yet," said Kyle Knox, another Parkland student. "But If I had the opportunity, I definitely would join one...because a lot of the time, when I'm studying by myself, there are things I won't

SEE STUDY PAGE 2

Fact or Fiction

The French dip sandwich is a staple of 20th century French cuisine.

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

CONT.

FROM PAGE 1

ABROAD

we go to Spain...The ones you see listed on our webpage are mostly the consortia ones. We also try to do a few homegrown programs.”

These “homegrown” study abroad programs depend on individual faculty members, which can cause them to fade out occasionally.

“We used to have a study abroad program to Costa Rica for agriculture. Unfortunately, that faculty member retired,” Littleton said. “We’ve done some other programs before, like Japan. The issue with homegrown ones is that the individual faculty member(s) sometimes retire, leave, or decide they don’t want to do it anymore. Then, that program kind of dies.”

Not only are students allowed to go on these trips, but faculty is as well.

“We also have something for faculty so they can be a semester liaison...for the full semester programs,” Littleton said. “There is also an opportunity for them to be involved with the summer programs. We are a little bit flexible on that.”

Littleton also works to organize faculty exchange programs that see educators from other countries visit and stay in the homes of their partner instructors from Parkland. The Parkland instructors then do the same by visiting their partner instructor in his or her country.

“The second part of my job is the staff and faculty part,” she said. “We have a two-week exchange that is in the spring and the fall. So, we have faculty from Finland, the Netherlands, and China come and visit us for two weeks, and then we go and visit them for two weeks. It’s a very inexpensive program, because we live with the families, so the costs are low for the participants as well as the college.”

There is a process that students must go through to be able to do the study abroad programs. Not only do students do an application, but there are certain requirements that must be met.



Photo provided by Jody Littleton | Fine and Applied Arts
Students on the Summer 2017 Dijon France Study Abroad trip in Orange, France.



Photo provided by Jody Littleton | Fine and Applied Arts
Students on the Summer 2017 Dijon France Study Abroad trip.

“To apply, contact me,” Littleton said. “I’m the one that does that for you. Get in contact with me, and I can give you the most updated applications.”

Applications generally require transcripts to make sure that students have enough credit hours with the right grade point average and English credit. An essay about why the student would like to study abroad and two references from faculty are required, as well.

“The minimum requirements for students are that they have to have

completed at least 12 credit hours, and have maintained at least a 2.75 GPA,” Littleton said. “They need to have completed English Composition 101 or some equivalent of the class with a B. There is a lot of writing with these courses, so we want to make sure the students have good background with writing in general and doing essays.”

Study abroad trips can vary in cost.

FROM PAGE 1

STUDY

think of, and then I’ll go in for a test or an exam, and there will be something on it that I should have known but didn’t because I didn’t connect a couple of dots that somebody else might have, or that a group of people might have if they were all working together.”

Still, more students said that they wouldn’t join one simply because they don’t need to, their logic being that if they don’t need help studying there isn’t that much of a reason to seek out people to study with.

Other students said that they would join a study group if they had a chance for the social aspect, even if they did not necessarily need to it to study.

“Study groups just seem like a good way to meet new people without wasting time that you could use to study,” said Chandra Galloway. “Meeting people is hard, especially with all the work everybody has to do for class, so study groups seem like they would just make it a little easier.”

While most students interviewed had not taken part in a study group, there were a few that had.

Whether or not they were successful was something of a mixed bag, however; some said they might have been useful, but finding the time for everybody to get together was more work than it was worth. Others have found they studied less than they would have on their own due to spending a lot of the time socializing rather than studying.

“Any time I went to a meeting, we ended up [goofing off] and not getting anything done,” said Alex Summers. “It probably had something to do with the people in it, since we were all friends, so maybe if they were people I wasn’t as close to it would have gone better.”

However, others found that study groups could be useful when it came to things they weren’t sure they would be able to do.

“I went to a study group meeting only because it was right before a test,” said Mariah Sherman, another student at Parkland College. “It helped me remember the material, and I ended up passing because of it.”

FROM PAGE 1

HUMANS

in Florida. That’s where I met my husband. [...] He was military so we spent eight years traveling the country. When he was ready to get out of the military that’s when I was like, ‘I’ve been following you for eight years; it’s your turn to follow me.’ He’s originally from Iowa so we were looking at schools back in the Midwest and Parkland just kept rising to the top.”

She says came to Parkland because of how advanced the school was in its teaching techniques.

“This school is so far ahead of, at least in math...It’s not even funny...It just seems like we’re way ahead of the curve,” she said.

She teaches the algebra sequence, which prepares students for higher levels of math and for math used in their careers.

“I am considered a developmental instructor. My primary focus is getting pre-college students ready for college or career level work—whatever they determine that they themselves need,” she said.

She says teaching fundamental classes is something she has always loved doing. She has taught the pre-algebra class nearly every semester she has been at Parkland and says she still enjoys it.

“I’ve always been good at teaching the foundation and it just goes all the way back to when I was 16 and teaching gymnastics...I’ve always been good at building that base for the students and bringing it down to their level, whether it be gymnastics or running or taking a very basic topic and even making it more basic to a student who just doesn’t understand it,” she said.

She says she feels her job at Parkland was made for her.

“It never feels like work coming here.”

Outside of Parkland, she coaches the junior high track and field team in Mahomet.

“I coach boys sprinting events...100 [meter], 200, 400, and the relays, four-by-two, four-by-four, four-by-one, and I also coach high jump and hurdles. We have a huge team. I work with 50 kids alone. But our team, girls and boys combined, is close to 200 ath-

letes...It’s about a third of the school,” she said.

She also owns a business that coaches runners, which she manages with her husband.

“My husband and I also own a running and coaching business,” she said. “We coach speed and agility classes for kids, we coach beginning women’s running groups, and then we coach individual clients that we meet with year-round that all have different goals. So, one person might have a goal of doing better in a [five-kilometer run] whereas another person might have a goal of running a marathon.”

Running is not only a job for Bails, but a main hobby as well.

“My husband and I are both big runners,” she said “We just did a ‘Howl at the Moon’ eight-hour ultra in August and in that race I ran 37 miles,,”

Her goal for this year is to qualify for the Boston marathon during a marathon this December.

“I’ve done 18 marathons and three ultras,” she said. “I’ve done two eight-hour ultras and a 24-hour ultra...In the 24 hour one I did 62 miles. So, I’m a little bit of an extremist.”

She got into running because her husband was a strong enthusiast of the sport.

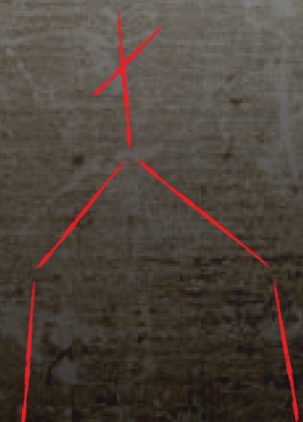
“They always joke that wives whose husbands golf are ‘golf widows’ because their husbands are gone all weekend for six or seven hours a day...I said I was a running widow because my husband’s dad also runs and the two of them would do these races for a weekend,” she said. “I went to one of [the races] and thought, ‘This is the most boring thing ever.’”

After deciding she never wanted to watch a race again she decided instead to join the races herself.

For her, running is a time that she gets to be in nature and think through problems or chat with running friends.

“I live near Lake of the Woods and I just like being out in nature first thing in the morning. It’s peaceful. I see deer every single day. Maybe I’ll catch sight of a buck like I did yesterday...I usually see about a dozen deer, foxes, and raccoons.”

Bails also has three rescue dogs, named Tesla, Ruby, and Hayward. Two of her dogs are from the veterinary technician program at Parkland.




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EDUCATION

At more US colleges, video gamers get the varsity treatment

Collin Binkley
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — In some ways, they're like typical college athletes. They're on varsity teams. They train for hours between classes. Some get hefty scholarships. But instead of playing sports, they're playing video games.

Varsity gaming teams with all the trappings of sports teams are becoming increasingly common as colleges tap into the rising popularity of competitive gaming. After initially keeping its distance, even the NCAA is now considering whether it should play a role.

Fifty U.S. colleges have established varsity gaming teams over the past three years, often offering at least partial scholarships and backed by coaches and game analysts, much like any other college team.

"We're talking to at least three or four new schools every single day. We did not expect this type of reaction," said Michael Brooks, executive director of the National Association of Collegiate eSports, a group that represents more than 40 schools with varsity gaming teams. "It caught us a little off guard."

Competitive gaming, often called esports, has become a booming entertainment industry over the past decade, with flashy professional events that fill sports arenas and draw millions of online viewers.

The biggest tournaments offer prize pools upward of \$20 million, attracting elite gamers who wage battle in popular video games such as "League of Legends" and "Overwatch."

Until recently, most colleges were slow to meet demand for a collegiate version, experts say, but interest has come in a flurry over the past year as more schools see a chance to benefit from the industry's growth.

Smaller private schools in particular have been quick to create varsity programs as a way to boost enroll-



Photo by Collin Binkley | AP Photo

In this Aug. 25, 2017, photo, Connor Nguyen, at right, and Griffin Williams, second from right, compete in a "Super Smash Bros. Melee" tournament at the Shine eSports festival at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. Griffin, 21, is captain of an esports team at the University of California, Irvine, and Nguyen, 23, is a graduate of the school. The University of California, Irvine, is among a growing number of U.S. schools starting to offer at least partial scholarships to students who compete in esports, competitive video-game playing.

ment numbers, although so far it has brought mixed results. Among several starting new teams this year is the College of St. Joseph, a school of about 260 students in Vermont.

"Strategically, we knew that it would give us more cache with students," said Jeff Brown, the school's senior vice president and athletic director. "We're all looking for a way to bring more kids in."

Many colleges hope to replicate the success they've seen at Robert Morris University in Illinois, a small school that launched the country's first varsity team in 2014 and has since become a national powerhouse.

But it's also catching on at some bigger schools, including the University of Utah, which says its new varsity teams are the first at any school in the five major athletics conferences.

Although most collegiate tournaments are now organized by third-party gaming leagues or video-game

companies, the rapid expansion has caught the attention of the NCAA. The league's board of governors announced in August that it will discuss its "potential role" in esports at an October meeting, noting the "prevalence of organized gaming competitions" on college campuses.

Supporters of collegiate gaming say varsity teams can bring national exposure to colleges at a relatively low cost, with the potential to land sponsorships that bring costs even lower.

The University of California, Irvine, opened a new \$250,000 "eSports arena" last year with financial backing from sponsors including a computer company and Riot Games, a video-game maker that organizes collegiate tournaments.

Other sponsors of the 3,500-square-foot arena provided 80 high-end computers, specialized gaming chairs and other equipment, university officials

said.

"Compared to traditional sports programs, it's more affordable," said Brooks, of the collegiate esports association. "At the end of day all we're talking about is a souped-up computer lab."

Students who represent their schools say it teaches them lessons in strategy, teamwork and time management, and it offers camaraderie with other gamers on campus.

"It really builds a sense of community," said Griffin Williams, a senior at UC Irvine who captains a team for the game "Super Smash Bros. Melee." "I actually feel more school pride than I would have had otherwise."

Other schools have brought esports into the classroom as students pursue careers in the business side of gaming. Boston's Emerson College is offering a new course on esports this year and eventually hopes to offer a minor degree.

"It's becoming a vast piece of everybody's world," said Gregory Payne, the head of communication studies at Emerson. "We have to be open to what new generations are dealing with."

Still, some have been reluctant to embrace what is sometimes seen as a slacker's pastime. Administrators on many campuses leave gamers to compete through unofficial clubs rather than varsity teams.

But that hasn't stopped others who expect collegiate gaming to keep growing. After announcing its first varsity team in April, Utah has already added teams for three more games and eventually hopes to offer full scholarships to gamers.

At the College of St. Joseph, Brown said demand for the school's two new teams is already overflowing. By next year, he expects the school to add several more.

"We're getting a tremendous amount of interest," he said. "Nearly every kid on campus wants to be a part of this."

Program pairs students, developmentally disabled

Kiera Allen
The Daily Journal

KANKAKEE, Ill. (AP) — A summer job has turned into a new Bishop McNamara High School program, thanks to senior Amanda Graf.

The program is called Mac Pals, where students will be paired with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Students and their pals will be participating in activities geared toward fun, learning and friendship. Activities will be scheduled throughout the year, and encourages things such as sports, art and music.

Graf, a senior from Kankakee, came up with the idea for the program while volunteering with the River Valley Special Recreation Association this past summer.

"I thought since all area high schools have a program like this, why can't we?" Graf said. She has the support of the entire school staff and administration. There already are 30 students who are interested in Mac Pals.

"If students want to implement something new in school, they need to put together a proposal, and the administration and myself loved



Photo by Tiffany Blanchette | The Daily Journal via AP

In this Aug. 29, 2017 photo, Bishop McNamara High School senior Amanda Graf hangs a flier for Mac Pals, a buddy organization for local students she initiated this year at her school in Kankakee, Ill. Students and their pals will be participating in activities geared toward fun, learning and friendship. Activities will be scheduled throughout the year, and encourages things such as sports, art and music.

Amanda's proposal," Bishop McNamara principal Terry Granger said.

"It's a great way to not only give back to the community, but to people with special needs, as well."

For Bishop McNamara students looking to get involved in Mac Pals, they can contact Graf via email, call-

ing, texting or in-person. Mac Pals is available to all students, grades 9-12, and sign-up is open-ended.

"Anyone can sign-up to join throughout the year. I wouldn't want to exclude anyone because they had a prior time commitment," Graf said.

"We were all really impressed with

how Amanda took this idea upon herself and rallied students together, and did everything that needed to be done to get this program together," said Laura Anderson, director of marketing and communications for Bishop McNamara.

When getting involved in the program, students will fill out a registration form complete with a survey.

The survey is a way of getting information so that students can be matched with their pal, even giving students the opportunity to list one thing their potential pal should know about them. There's no initial cost for joining the program.

Graf already has a few ideas in mind for Mac Pals.

"I want to hold different activities throughout the year. It'd be great if we could get student-athletes involved because I'd like to have volleyball and baseball games," she said. "I want to have an ice cream social to start out, just so students and their pals can get acquainted with one another."

"Everyone has so much to offer. Mac Pals will be about gaining different senses of friendship that everyone should experience."

Get in the action!

www.CobraSports.net

LOCAL

Columbia Street Roastery hosts free monthly coffee tastings

Greg Gancarz
Editor

Local family-owned coffee retailer and roaster Columbia Street Roastery has recently incorporated several free classes for the community on coffee cupping and palate training. These classes were started in the hope of “[educating] people about coffee and [helping] them realize not all coffee is the same,” said John Herriott, a managing family member and who runs the company’s Chicagoland operations.

Two classes are currently being offered: a monthly cupping session and a monthly palate training event. A brewing class will also be available to the community in October. It will cover how to brew coffee using a variety of methods such as the French press, pour overs and the AeroPress according to Herriott.

Currently, the cupping class is scheduled for every third Saturday each month. The palate training session is scheduled the second Saturday of each month. Both events begin at 10 a.m.

“The cupping session is more of an intro to the world of coffee,” Herriott said. “We walk through the steps it takes for coffee to get from the farm level all the way to us. From processing, to milling, to shipping and how all those little steps effect the flavor of the cup of coffee. After that we cup coffees from around the world to allow people to hopefully try coffees they [have] never had before.”

By contrast, Herriott says the palate training sessions go a step above.

“It’s focused just on tasting coffee,” he said. “The discussions are about the different smells and flavors people are picking up in the coffee. We use the food to help better identify what people think they are tasting and smelling.”

Participants in the palate training sessions sample various food items with ingredients ranging from chocolate chips to blackberries and even green beans, in addition to the coffees. The selected coffees used for the session vary in flavor as much as their origins and are imported from every major coffee-producing region in the world.

Beans range from regions as well-known as a classic Colombian to more exotic Sumatran beans.

Participants of the palate training session are first encouraged to attempt to identify broad flavors and traits of each different coffee, before delving into more precise descriptions and flavor notes. Herriott and co-roaster Erik Stanek had coffee tasters attempt to pinpoint specific flavor components like strawberry or



Photo by Greg Gancarz | Prospectus News
Participants of Columbia Street Roastery’s palate training session learn to identify particular flavors in various coffee brews.



Photo by Greg Gancarz | Prospectus News
Palate training session participants learn to “break the crust” of freshly-brewed coffee grounds at Columbia Street Roastery in Champaign.

lemon, rather than simply sweet or sour.

“There are no wrong answers,” Stanek said.

For Stanek, the recent Sumatran coffee the Roastery received resembled tropical fruit juice, “but it’s a little different for everyone,” he says.

“The biggest obstacle people have is identifying what they are tasting in the coffee,” Herriott said. “Many times, people will say, ‘It tastes like something but I can’t put my finger on it.’ The class is set up to help people identify the different flavor notes by having actual food items there to taste and smell to help identify what they think they are tasting in the coffee. It makes coffee more interesting and fun.”

Stanek says there are many factors that affect a coffee’s flavor and made a point to note the complexities. Wines for example, have around 300 possible flavors detected in various blends. Coffees have over 600.

“Coffee is a little more complex in our eyes than wine is,” Stanek said.

Stanek says the greatest factors that affect a coffee’s flavor profile are conditions associated with the farm, like the soil, climate, and elevation.

“The higher elevation you get, the more dense coffees become because the plant has to deal less with heat and pest issues,” Stanek said. “Because you’re higher on the mountain it’s cooler, which allows that bean to mature more properly and have higher density of sugars, which then creates a more complex coffee...That all plays a role in what that coffee tastes like.”

Processing is also a major factor in flavor according to Stanek. One factor is how and if the beans are washed and dried, which affects sugars present on the bean—which affect flavor.

Stanek says buying coffee fresh is a must when it comes to preserving all of the “delicious, delicate” flavors that the Roastery strives to emphasize.

“Store bought coffee is going to be roasted, at minimum, a month ago if it’s just the big brands. It could be even longer. We’re the only place that roasts coffee locally. Additionally, we just think that we roast good coffee. We like to think that we know what we’re doing. We’ve been around for over 20 years so we have a lot of experience when it comes to roasting coffee,” says Stanek.

“There really isn’t anything wrong with getting your coffee from the super market,” Herriott said. “But if you care about quality and freshness then you should go to the source. We roast coffee daily so you know the coffee is fresh and not stale. Plus, we will be able to help guide you to one you will like and hopefully a new coffee to try.”

The roastery’s coffees are chosen based off more than just what the proprietors think tastes good or what is selling. Both Herriott and Stanek have personally travelled to multiple source farms to get to know farmers.

“One of the big things we want to do is to make sure we know who we are buying from,” Herriott said. “It has taken me to places like Colombia, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua. Coffee has taken me places I normally would not even think of going, which is pretty cool. I get to see a side of the world most people don’t.”

The Herriotts have been active business operators in the Champaign-Urbana area for almost 70 years. They try to make a positive impact in the community through things like their work with Misericordia in Chicago.

“They are an organization that works with adults with developmental disabilities. We have a coffee program with Misericordia where we hire their residents to package our wholesale orders for our Chicagoland accounts,” says Herriott.

But for residents closer to the Champaign area, Columbia Street Roastery is just a good place for coffee.

“It’s really cool. It’s like they’ve got a coffee for every taste out there. I think whatever mood you’re in, or whatever you’re in the mood for, they’ve got a coffee that will be what you’re looking for,” says James, a local Parkland student who attended the palate training event.

Overall, Herriott says it’s great to come to the events to build upon a passion if nothing else.

“It’s always fun to try new things and expand your horizons,” Herriott said. “Everyone geeks out on something, video games, sports, wines, whatever...If you like coffee even a little bit, it’s fun to geek out with us and gain an appreciation for everything that goes into making it.”

C-U hosts 8th Pride Fest and Parade

David Saveanu
Staff Writer

Champaign-Urbana 8th-annual Pride Fest and Parade took place on the weekend of Sept. 15-17.

The pride weekend kicked off with a comedy show at the Soma Ultralounge, then on Saturday the festivities continued, followed by the parade at 4 p.m. and a drag brunch and party on Sunday.

The comedy show at the Soma Ultralounge featured Illinois comedians Shannon Noll and Whitney Chitwood. All the proceeds that came from the sales of the show benefited CU pride.

There was also a kickoff party at 51 Main where many different artists showed off talents to begin the festivities of the fun weekend.

The next day, the party continued all throughout downtown Champaign, with the parade path closed off beginning at the corner of Main and Walnut, and going all the way to Washington and Hickory. Business along the path were displaying rainbow flags and colorful posters showing support, and pride in C-U’s LGBTQ+ community.

The fest was cheerful with people expressing themselves, dressed in vibrant and colorful costumes and clothing. Different businesses along the roads that were closed off, were



Photo by David Saveanu | Prospectus News
Festival-goers gather on East Washington Street for the parade on Sunday, Sept. 17th.

blasting music outside, so different areas along the festival had large groups of people dancing and celebrating pride, anticipating the parade.

The festival had a vendor section, where different businesses were showing support, and enjoying the festivities, while trying to connect with the attendees of the festival.

There was also a children’s area where children were jumping around in bounce-houses, shooting basketballs, and playing with bubbles. The festival overall was very child friendly, with a stage that played family friendly music, and a crowd that was sensitive to all sorts of attendees.

Upon the beginning of the parade, people cheered, and sang songs with the brightly dressed march-

ers, and the animated floats. Different companies, organizations, clubs from local schools, bands, public officials, and many more were marching along showing support and celebrating pride. Each group was singing or chanting in support of pride, and other social movements; songs like “525,600 minutes” as sung by the Illini Student Musicals, and chants like “Black Lives Matter” chanted by Gay-Straight Alliances from local High Schools.

Donna Whisler an attendant of the festival spoke on her experience “I’m from Decatur which is 45 minutes away...we came over today, I’m surprised to see three different church groups supporting the pride fest, so that was exciting to see, and a lot of hotlines for help, and counseling, and

that’s been really good to see too. It’s the first pride fest I’ve ever been to. I’m just going to keep going and supporting.” People have come from all over Central Illinois to enjoy the festival.

The pride fest’s website described the parade and festival as the largest in Central Illinois.

The director of the Illinois Office of Tourism, and the C-U Pride Grand Marshall, Cory M. Jobe organized the fest and parade in collaboration with tourism industry professionals across Illinois.

Cody Dees, community relations manager for Visit Champaign County, talked about his experience and thoughts on the festival.

“Every year we come out to see thousands of people grace the streets of downtown Champaign honoring the pride and inclusivity that Champaign offers. It’s wonderful,” Dees said. “We have vendors out here supporting the cause and just being together. In a climate of so much divide Champaign comes together.”

The sense of community was strong in Champaign this weekend; people came together and united to support pride once more this year. If you’re interested in coming to the Pride Fest and Parade next year or other LGBTQ+ events, check unitingpride.org for dates and information.

ART

Giertz Gallery presents new exhibit “Stepping the Mast”



Photo provided by Lisa Costello | Fine and Applied Arts
Millard-Mendez titled this piece “Climate Change Plan B Boat” and it references themes on global warming.

Anna Watson
Staff Writer

The Giertz Gallery will present “Stepping the Mast: Rob Millard-Mendez” from Sept. 25–Nov. 4, featuring solo artist Rob Millard-Mendez.

In the show, Millard-Mendez will display 16 works he has created over the past years.

One piece, titled “Climate Change Plan B Boat,” characterizes themes on global warming. The sculpture is 40 inches high with a barge and metal poles holding a plastic house. The idea is that people who deny climate change want to escape it by living higher and higher above ground and letting all the other issues fade to the bottom.

The barge was an idea Millard-Mendez captured after experiencing the great scale of barges on the riverfront by his home in Evansville, Ind.

Millard-Mendez says the bottom pieces were made from items found in the trash, the idea being that it is

sustainable. Some of the other parts used were from an old factory in Evansville that burned down.

Dark humor is one of the major themes in Millard-Mendez’s work.

Another work by Millard-Mendez titled “The Next Big Thing” is a boat that is made out of tongues in the middle. The tongues were bought off a joke website, but the idea is to poke fun of people who talk without letting others talk first. The tongue on the very top is a tongue from a coyote Millard-Mendez bought off a taxi-dermy website.

Millard-Mendez is an artist and educator who has presented work in over 500 exhibitions, more than 25 of which were solo. His has been shown in all 50 states, as well as internationally.

“We are excited to have an artist like this exhibit his work here for students,” said Lisa Costello, the director of the art gallery. “So many [of] our students take 3-dimensional ceramics, design and color theory, so I think it applies to so many students in gen-

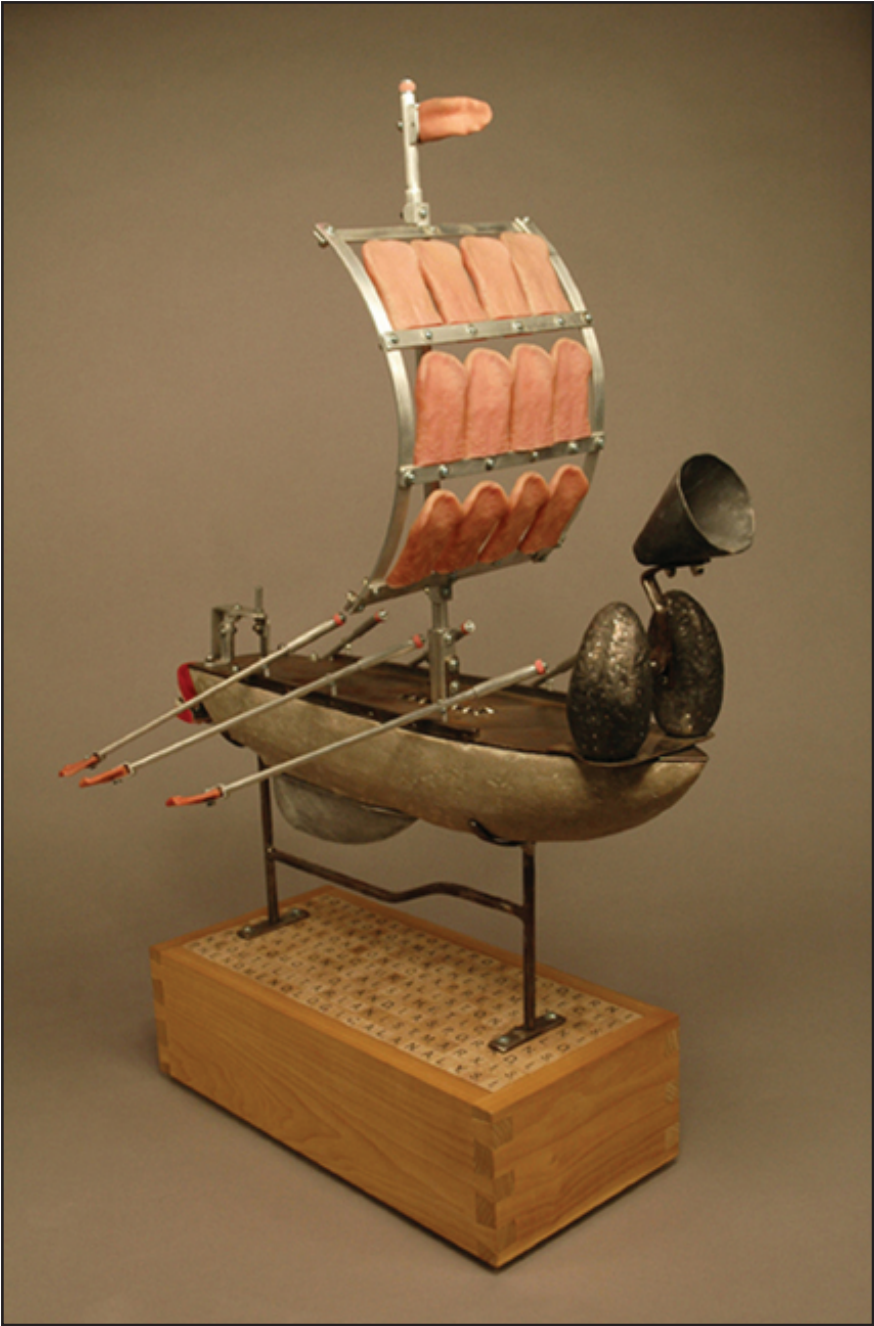


Photo provided by Lisa Costello | Fine and Applied Arts
This piece titled “The Next Big Thing,” by Millard-Mendez is made of tongues bought off a joke website.

eral.”

Mendez-Millard specializes in woodworking and is process-oriented. The connotations he makes in his art depict metaphors he is thinking about.

On his website, he writes the statement: “the primary aim in my work is to illustrate and analyze concepts that I find enthralling.”

Costello finds relevance in his work for Parkland students.

“[His work] gives students something to think about,” Costello said.

Millard-Mendez was born in a small town in Massachusetts with old textile factories and mills. As a boy, his summers where spent hunting tuna fish with his dad who was a commercial fisher.

He was the first of his family to attend college at the University of Massachusetts on full academic scholarship. He always wanted to study art, but he first arrived on campus planning to study pre-medical coursework because of the financial competency.

His sophomore year he switched

his major to sculpture.

Millard-Mendez is now a professor in the Art and Design Department at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. He teaches everything from art appreciation to painting, but specializes in studio courses on wood-working.




“Being a lifelong student has invigorated my teaching,” Millard-Mendez writes. “I continuously hone my own artistic skills and learn new sculptural processes.”

On Sept. 28 at 1:15 p.m., Millard-Mendez will be speaking in the gallery lounge and giving a short demonstration for students. The reception for “Stepping the Mast” is set for the same day, from 5:30–7:30 p.m.


Additional information on the Giertz Gallery and the exhibition of Millard-Mendez’s works can be seen on Parkland’s online homepage at parkland.edu by clicking on “News and Events” near the bottom of the screen. The exhibit’s page can be found under the “Campus Events” subheading.

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Fact or Fiction

FICTION: “French dip sandwich” is something of a misnomer; the dish is unheard of in France, and instead originated in Los Angeles after the turn of the 20th century. “French” likely refers to the kind of bread, as the sandwiches are often served on baguettes.

Fact or Fiction